

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 PC-01 CIAE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-07 OMB-01
TRSE-00 AID-05 IGA-02 EB-08 SCS-03 SCA-01 OPR-02
A-01 SY-05 OC-06 CCO-00 /115 W
-----281404Z 008624 /41

O 281310Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2596

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

SECDEF WASH DC IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER//ECJ4-7 IMMEDIATE

DIS WASH DC IMMEDIATE

USIA WASH DC IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 KINSHASA 2785

PASS PEACE CORPS

USIA FOR IAA, IOP

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, PINS, AEMR, CG, AO

SUBJ: SHABA ATTACK: SITREP 19 (MARCH 28)

1. FOLLOWING IS NINETEENTH MISSION-WIDE SURVEY INCLUDING REPORTS
FROM LUBUMBASHI:

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2. MILITARY SITUATION:

(A) HOSTILE FORCES:

(1) NO CHANGE FROM 27 MARCH: HOSTILE FORCES STILL BELIEVED
TO BE LOCATED APPROXIMATELY 150 KMS WEST OF KOLWEZI, ALTHOUGH THERE

RUMORS FORCES MAY BE AS CLOSE AS 60 KMS.

(B) ZAIRIAN FORCES:

(1) FAZ HEADQUARTERS REPORTED THE FOLLOWING AM 28 MARCH
REGARDING THE DISPOSITION OF ITS FORCES IN SHABA:

A. THE FRONT IS CURRENTLY LOCATED AT KAYEMBE, 33 KMS
EAST OF MUTSHATSHA. FAZ TROOPS THERE ARE TWO COMPANIES OF THE
KAMANYOLA
DIVISION, ONE COMPANY OF THE 2ND PARACOMMANDO, ONE COMPANY OF THE
12TH INFANTRY (GENDARMERIE) AND THREE AML (PANHARDS) WHICH ARE NOT
BEING USED.

B. FORCES AT KOLWEZI ARE THE SHABANI BATTALION COMPOSED
OF ONE COMPANY FROM "CETA" (AIRBORNE SCHOOL), ONE COMPANY FROM THE
1ST PARACOMMANDOS AND ONE COMPANY FROM THE 3RD COMMANDOS FOR A TOTAL
OF ABOUT 500 MEN. ALSO THE NGOY BATTALION COMPONES OF THREE COM-
PANIES. FROM THE 12TH BRIGADE OF THE KAMANYOLA DIVISION, ONE COMPANY
OF THE 1ST INFANTRY BATTALION AND ONE COMPANY OF THE 13TH INFANTRY
BATTALION TOTALING ABOUT 800 MEN. THIS BATTALION IS UNDEREQUIPPED.
IN ADDITION TO THESE TWO BATTALIONS, THERE ARE ONE COMPANY OF THE
KAMANYOLA, THREE M-113 APC'S, ONE COMPANY OF MOBIL GENDARMES AND
ONE COMPANY OF TERRITORIAL GENDARMES.

C. ONE COMPANY OF THE 3RD COMMANDOS UNDER MAJOR TSHIBANGO
IS LOCATED IN THE REAR OF HOSTILE FORCES AT BANGALALA (1027S/2712E)
BUT IS OUT OF CONTACT. ITS EFFECTIVENESS IS THUS QUESTIONABLE.

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D. AN OVERSIZED BATTALION IS LOCATED IN THE AREA OF
KANANGA UNDER THE COMMAND OF GENERAL ELUMBA. PLATOON SIZE ELEMENTS
ARE SCREENING THE KASAI OCCIDENTAL/ANGOLA BORDER WHILE OTHER ELEMENTS
FROM THE 3RD INFANTRY ARE IN A BLOCKING POSITION APPROXIMATELY ON
THE KASAI/SHABA REGIONAL BORDER, HOLDING AGAINST POTENTIAL NORTHWARD
MOVEMENT BY HOSTILE FORCES OUT OF KAPANGA.

E. A PROVISIONAL BATTALION COMPONES OF THREE COMPANIES
FROM THE KAMANYOLA AND ONE COMPANY OF THE 1ST PARACOMMANDOS UNDER
OVERALL COMMAND OF MAJOR VUADI IS LOCATED AT KAKAKUMBA. IT IS TO
DEPLACE TO SAMUYEMBA (0942S/2225E).

F. TWO BATTALIONS OF THE KAMANYOLA DIVISION WILL BE
AIRLIFTED TODAY FROM KITONA TO KAMINA BASE. ONE WILL REINFORCE
DEFENSIVE FORCES AT THE BASE AND THE OTHER WILL DEPLOY TO KAYEYE
(1016S/2453E).

G. COLONEL ELUKI IS COMMANDER OF THE SOUTHERN FORCES
IN SHABA AND THE DEFENSE OF KOLWEZI. COLONEL IKUKU IS BEING MADE

COMMANDER OF KAMINA BASE AND NORTHERN FORCES TO INCLUDE THE
PROVISIONAL BATTALION UNDER VAUDI.

(2) AIR SITUATION:

A. LOCATION/STATUS:

KINSHASA - 5 C-130 (3 O/R, ONE IN PHASE, 1 DEADLINED)
2 BUFFALO

KOLWEZI - 1 BUFFALO
3 MACCHI
2 ALLOUETTE III
1 PUMA
1 CESSNA 310

KAMINA - 4 MIRAGE
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B. AIRLIFT: THREE C-130 SORITES OVER WEEKEND TO SHABA

C. CLOSE AIR SUPPORT: NONE REPORTED.

(3) CIS REPORTS THAT THE DESERTION RATE AMONG FAZ AT KOLWEZI
IS HIGH AND THAT FAZ HAS BEEN UNABLE TO ESTABLISH BARRICADES ON
MANY OF THE BACKROADS INTO THE CITY.

POL SITUATION:

3. CONSUMPTION IN THE KINSHASA AREA CONTINUES LIGHT. PETROZAIRE
CURRENTLY VIEWS AS ITS FIRST PRIORITY GETTING AS MUCH USABLE JP1
AS POSSIBLE TO KAMINA FOR MILITARY USE, ALTHOUGH IT IS STILL UN-
CERTAIN WHETHER ITS TECHNICIANS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MAKE THE NECESSARY
REPAIRS TO THE STORAGE TANKS THERE. THE-TANKER THAT WAS DUE IN
MATADI YESTERDAY HAS NOT YET ARRIVED BUT IT IS TENTATIVELY
EXPECTED THIS EVENING.

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USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER//ECJ4-7 IMMEDIATE
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USIA WASH DC IMMEDIATE
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S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 KINSHASA 2785

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DOMESTIC PRESS REACTION:

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4. SHABA NEWS BLACKOUT CONTINES MARCH 28 BY KINSHASA MEDIA, EXCEPT FOR "ZAIRE" MAGAZINE EDITORIAL, WHICH REHASHESGOZ VIEWS ON INVASION, AND ARTICLE ON "LATEST" DEVELOPMENTS. "ZAIRE" MARCH 28 ARTICLE, OBVIOUSLY WRITTEN BEFORE THE WEEKEND'S DEVELOPMENTS, NOTES: "THE STRATEGIC LOCALITIES OF MUTSHATSHA AND KASAJI ARE CONTROLLED BY THE FAZ (ZAIRIAN ARMED FORCES). THE STEAM ROLLER IS GETTING UNDERWAY FOLLOWING THE COUNTER-OFFENSIVE STRATEGY OF FORCING THE ENEMY TO BEAT A RETREAT TOWARDS ANGOLA FROM WHICH HE CAME. IT'S TO VERIFY THE ADVANCE OF THE FAX THAT PRESIDENT MOBUTU FOR THE SECOND TIME LEFT KINSHASA SATURDAY MARCH 26." EDITORIAL IN SAME ISSUE CLOSES WITH THE WARNING: "THE PRAGUE SPRING--IN A NEW VERSION-- WILL NOT TAKE PLACE IN ZAIRE, NOR IN AFRICA."

DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION:

5. KINSHASA REMAINS CLAM AND THE GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED PRESS CONTINUES TO PUBLISH MESSAGES OF SUPPORT FOR THE MOBUTU REGIME FROM MPR FUNCTIONARIES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. THE GOZ STILL HAS NOT ANNOUNCED THE FALL OF MUTSHATSHA, IN FACT, GOZ SPOKESMAN OFFICIALLY DENIED MARCH 27 FALL OF MUTSHATSHA. GOX HAS NOT YET PUBLICLY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT ITS TROOPS NEVER REACHED KASAJI. THE RESIDENTS IN THIS CAPITAL HAVE NO IDEA OF THE SITUATION AT THE FRONT. SHOULD THE INVADERS CONTINUE TO PUSH FORWARD AND SCORE A MAJOR VICTORY AT KOLWEZI, THE IMPACT OF SURPRISE IN THE CAPITAL COULD BE SIGNIFICANT.

6. ACCORDING TO CIS REPORTS FROM KOLWEZI, THE MOOD OF THAT TOWN IS ONE OF FEAR.

7. FROM TSHIKAPA, BRITMOND REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS (AM MARCH 28) THAT THE TOWN IS IN ZAIRIAN HANDS AND SITUATION IS NORMAL.

AMERICAN CITIZEN SITUATION:

8. CONSTRUCTEURS INGA-SHABA (CIS) MANAGEMENT IN KINSHASA HAS AT 1900 Z, MARCH 27, FORMALLY REQUESTED EMBASSY'S ADVICE ON EVACUATING
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CIS EMPLOYEES FROM KOLWEZI. CIS MANAGER AT KOLWEZI IS CONCERNED ABOUT FALL OF MUTSHATSHA; REPORTS OF FAZ INEPTITUDE, UNCONFIRMED REPORTS OF POSSIBLE BELGIAN EVACUATION OF DEPENDENTS FROM KOLWEZI, AND THE PRESENT FRIGHTENED MOOD IN KOLWEZI.

9. EMBASSY INFORMED CIS MANAGEMENT AT 1000 Z, MARCH 28, THAT IT SHARES THEIR CONCERN FOR THE AMCITS IN KOLWEZI AND IS KEEPING IN VERY CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE SITUATION. EMBASSY PROPOSED AND CIS ACCEPTED TO SEND VICE CONSUL FROM AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI TO KOLWEZI IN ORDER TO IMPROVE CONTACT WITH CIS KOLWEZI MANAGER. VICE CONSUL WILL STAY AT CIS CAMP AND PROVIDE CLOSE LIAISON ADVICE ON AMCIT SITUATION. VICE CONSUL PLANS TO TRAVEL TO KOLWEZI BY ROAD TODAY, MARCH 29. NEED FOR VICE CONSUL'S PRESENCE IN KOLWEZI WILL BE REVIEWED ON DAILY BASIS.

10. AT PRESENT EMBASSY DOES NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT INFORMATION TO ADVISE CIS ON EVACUATION OF KOLWEZI.

SITUATION OF BELGIAN NATIONALS:

11. BELGIAN EMBASSY REPORTS DEPENDENTS OF 10 BELGIAN "COOPERANTS" IN KANIAMA (APPROXIMATELY 170 KM NW OF KAMINA) HAVE BEEN TOLD TO TAKE "EARLY LEAVE" AND HAVE LEFT TOWN. COOPERANTS WILL ROTATE OUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH NORMAL ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES.

12. BELGIAN EMBASSY FURTHER STATES ITS CHIEF OF COOPERATION MISSION NOW IN KOLWEZI TO ASSESS SITUATION AND RETURNING KINSHASA MARCH 29. MEMBER OF COOPERATION MISSION LOCATED IN LUBUMBASHI WILL REMAIN BEHIND IN KOLWEZI TO PROVIDE ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE TO BELGIAN NATIONALS IN AREA AS REQUIRED. BELGIAN EMBASSY SOURCE STATED THAT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ESTABLISHED GOB POLICY, DECISION TO EVACUATE KOLWEZI RESTS WITH NATIONALS THEMSELVES. SHOULD THEY DECIDE TO EVACUATE, GOB WOULD THEN BE PREPARED TO PROVIDE FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE.
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Message Attributes

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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2979226
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SHABA ATTACK: SITREP 19 (MARCH 28)
TAGS: MOPS, PINS, AEMR, CG, AO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9de439b1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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